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A

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General Assembly

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Fifty-third session
Sixth Committee
Agenda item 155
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 3 November 1998 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The French Minister for Foreign Affairs, addressing the General Assembly on 23 September, suggested that at the fifty-third session it should enter into discussions on an international convention for the suppression of terrorist financing.

The French delegation suggests that these discussions should start in 1999 within the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996.

To that end the French delegation has prepared a draft convention that may serve as a basis for the Ad Hoc Committee's work. It appears as an annex to this letter.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 155.

(*Signed*) Alain **Dejammet**
Permanent Representative

98-32583 (E) 051198 061198

Annex

Draft international convention for the suppression of terrorist financing

The States Parties to this Convention,

Having in mind the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations concerning the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of good-neighbourliness and friendly relations and cooperation among States,

Deeply concerned about the worldwide escalation of acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Recalling the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, annexed to General Assembly resolution 49/60 of 9 December 1994, in which, *inter alia*, "the States Members of the United Nations solemnly reaffirm their unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomever committed, including those which jeopardize the friendly relations among States and peoples and threaten the territorial integrity and security of States",

Noting that the Declaration also encouraged States "to review urgently the scope of the existing international legal provisions on the prevention, repression and elimination of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, with the aim of ensuring that there is a comprehensive legal framework covering all aspects of the matter",

Recalling further resolution 52/165 of 19 January 1998 which invites States to "consider, in particular, the implementation of the measures set out in paragraphs 3 (a) to (f) of its resolution 51/210" of 17 December 1996,

Recalling further resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, paragraph 3, subparagraph (f), of which calls upon all States "to take steps to prevent and counteract, through appropriate domestic measures, the financing of terrorists and terrorist organizations, whether such financing is direct or indirect through organizations which also have or claim to have charitable, social or cultural goals or which are also engaged in unlawful activities such as illicit arms trafficking, drug dealing and racketeering, including the exploitation of persons for purposes of funding terrorist activities, and in particular to consider, where appropriate, adopting regulatory measures to prevent and counteract movements of funds suspected to be intended for terrorist purposes without impeding in any way the freedom of legitimate capital movements and to intensify the exchange of information concerning international movements of such funds",

Noting also that financing which terrorists may obtain increasingly influences the number and seriousness of international acts of terrorism they commit,

Noting further that existing multilateral legal instruments do not specifically address such financing,

Being convinced of the urgent need to enhance international cooperation between States in devising and adopting effective measures for the prevention of the financing of terrorism as well as the prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators of actions contributing to terrorism,

Considering that the financing of terrorism is a matter of grave concern to the international community as a whole,

Noting that the activities of military forces of States are governed by rules of international law outside the framework of this Convention and that the exclusion of certain actions from the coverage of this Convention does not condone or make lawful otherwise unlawful acts, or preclude prosecution under other laws,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

For the purposes of this Convention:

(a) "Financing" means any contribution aimed at providing by direct or indirect methods funds to third parties, including through organizations which also have or claim to have charitable, cultural or social goals; such contributions may be public or private, and result from lawful or unlawful activities such as:

- Donations and fund raising,
- Commercial activities,
- Organized traffic in goods and persons,
- Robbery, racketeering, abduction and hostage-taking,
- Swindles, fraud, embezzlement of assistance or subsidies;

(b) "Military forces of a State" means the armed forces of a State which are organized, trained and equipped under its internal law for the primary purpose of national defence or security, and persons acting in support of those armed forces who are under their command, control and responsibility.

Article 2

1. Any person commits an offence within the meaning of this Convention if that person intentionally organizes or proceeds with the financing of a person or group of persons who, to his or her knowledge:

(a) Commits, or proposes to commit, in connection with an individual or collective undertaking aiming to disrupt public order, acts with the intent to:

(i) Cause death or serious bodily injury;

(ii) Cause extensive destruction of property or of the environment; or

(iii) Threaten to cause death or serious bodily injury; or cause extensive destruction of property or of the environment; or to compel a person, an international organization or a State to do or abstain from doing any act; or

(b) Commits, or proposes to commit, one of the offences within the scope of the following Conventions, subject to its ratification by the State Party:

(i) Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed On Board Aircraft, done at Tokyo on 14 September 1963;

(ii) Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, done at The Hague on 16 December 1970;

(iii) Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, done at Montreal on 23 September 1971;

(iv) Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 14 December 1973;

(v) International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 17 December 1979;

(vi) Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, adopted at Vienna on 3 March 1980;

(vii) Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, done at Montreal on 24 February 1988;

(viii) Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, done at Rome on 10 March 1988;

(ix) Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms located on the Continental Shelf, done at Rome on 10 March 1988;

(x) International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15 December 1997.

2. Within the meaning of this Convention, acts of embezzlement, conversion or transfers of property or sums of money, in whole or in part, carried out by a person knowing such acts are to be used for committing offences referred to in this article, are also considered offences.

3. Any person also commits an offence if that person attempts to commit an offence as set forth in paragraph 1 and 2 of the present article.

4. Any person also commits an offence if that person:

(a) Participates as an accomplice to an offence as set forth in paragraph 1, 2 or 3 of the present article; or

(b) Organizes or directs others to commit an offence as set forth in paragraph 1, 2 or 3 of the present article; or

(c) In any other way contributes to the commission of one or more offences as set forth in paragraph 1, 2 or 3 of the present article, by a group of persons acting with a common purpose; such contribution shall be international and either be made with the aim of furthering the general criminal activity or purpose of the group or be made in the knowledge of the intention of the group to commit the offence or offences concerned.

Article 3

This Convention shall not apply where the offence is committed within a single State, the alleged offender and the victims are nationals of that State, the alleged offender is found in the territory of that State and no other State has a basis under article 7, paragraph 1, or article 7, paragraph 2, of this Convention to exercise jurisdiction, except that the provisions of articles 11 to 17 shall, as appropriate, apply in those cases.

Article 4

Each State Party shall adopt such measures as may be necessary:

(a) To establish as criminal offences under its domestic law the offences set forth in article 2 of this Convention;

(b) To make those offences punishable by effective, proportionate and deterrent penalties which take into account the grave nature of those offences. If the acts generating the financing are already offences under the domestic legislation of the State Party, the penalties incurred shall be increased, if necessary.

Article 5

1. Each State Party shall take the necessary measures to ensure that legal entities may be held liable when they have knowingly derived profits or participated in the perpetration of offences referred to in this Convention.

2. Subject to the fundamental legal principles of the State Party, said legal entity may incur criminal, civil or administrative liability.

3. Such liability is incurred without prejudice to the criminal liability of individuals having committed the offences or of their accomplices.

4. Each State Party shall ensure, in particular, that legal entities are punishable in an effective, proportionate and deterrent manner and that substantial economic penalties are imposed.

Article 6

Each State Party shall adopt such measures as may be necessary, including, where appropriate, domestic legislation, to ensure that criminal acts within the scope of this Convention, in particular where they are intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, are under no circumstances justifiable by considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other similar nature and are punished by penalties consistent with their grave nature.

Article 7

1. Each State Party shall take such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over offences referred to in article 2 when:

(a) The offence is committed in the territory of that State; or

(b) The offence is committed by a national of that State.

2. Each State Party may also establish its jurisdiction over any such offence when:

(a) The offence is committed against a national of that State; or

(b) The offence is committed by a stateless person who has his or her habitual residence in the territory of that State; or

(c) The offence is committed in an attempt to compel that State to do or abstain from doing any act.

3. Upon ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to this Convention, each State Party shall notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the jurisdiction it has established in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present article under its domestic law. Should any change take place, the State Party concerned shall immediately notify the Secretary-General.

4. Each State Party shall take such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the offences set forth in article 2 in cases where the alleged offender is present in its territory and it does not extradite that person to any of the States Parties for the reason that:

(a) The offence was committed on its territory; or

(b) The offence was committed by one of its nationals.

5. Each State Party may likewise take such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the offences referred to in article 2 in cases where the alleged offender is present in its territory and it does not extradite that person to any of the States Parties which have established their jurisdiction in accordance with paragraph 1 or 2 of the present article.

6. When more than one State Party claims jurisdiction over one of the offences referred to in this Convention, the relevant States Parties shall strive to coordinate their actions efficiently, in particular concerning the conditions for prosecuting and the terms and conditions of mutual legal assistance.

Article 8

1. Each State Party shall take appropriate measures to allow for identification, freezing or seizure of any instrument that has contributed to the commission of the offences referred to in this Convention, for purposes of possible forfeiture.

2. Each State Party shall take appropriate measures to permit the forfeiture of property, funds and other means used or intended to be used for committing the offences referred to in this Convention.

3. Each State Party may give consideration to concluding agreements on sharing with other States Parties, on a regular or case-by-case basis, such proceeds or property, or funds derived from the sale of such proceeds or property, in accordance with its domestic law.

Article 9

1. Upon receiving information that a person who has committed or who is alleged to have committed an offence as referred to in article 2 may be present in its territory, the State Party concerned shall take such measures as may be necessary under its domestic law to investigate the facts contained in the information.

2. Upon being satisfied that the circumstances so warrant, the State Party in whose territory the offender or alleged offender is present shall take the appropriate measures under its domestic law so as to ensure that person's presence for the purpose of prosecution or extradition.

3. Any person regarding whom the measures referred to in paragraph 2 of the present article are being taken shall be entitled to:

(a) Communicate without delay with the nearest appropriate representative of the State of which that person is a national or which is otherwise entitled to protect that person's rights or, if that person is a stateless person, the State in the territory of which that person habitually resides;

(b) Be visited by a representative of that State;

(c) Be informed of that person's rights under subparagraphs (a) and (b) of this paragraph.

4. The rights referred to in paragraph 3 shall be exercised in conformity with the laws and regulations of the State in the territory of which the offender or alleged offender is present, subject to the provision that the said laws and regulations must enable full effect to be given to the purposes for which the rights accorded under paragraph 3 of the present article are intended.

5. The provisions of paragraph 3 and 4 of the present article shall be without prejudice to the right of any State Party having a claim to jurisdiction in accordance with article 7, paragraph 1, subparagraph (b), or paragraph 2, subparagraph (b), to invite the International Committee of the Red Cross to communicate with and visit the alleged offender.

6. When a State Party, pursuant to this article, has taken a person into custody, it shall immediately notify, directly or through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the States Parties which have established jurisdiction in accordance with article 7, paragraphs 1 and 2, and, if it considers it advisable, any other interested States Parties, of the fact that such person is in custody and of the circumstances which warrant that person's detention. The State which makes the investigation contemplated in paragraph 1 of the present article shall promptly inform the said States Parties of its findings and shall indicate whether it intends to exercise jurisdiction.

Article 10

1. The State Party in the territory of which the alleged offender is present shall, in cases to which article 7 applies, if it does not extradite that person, be obliged, without exception whatsoever and whether or not the offence was committed in its territory, to submit the case without undue delay to its competent authorities for the purpose of prosecution, through proceedings in accordance with the laws of that State. Those authorities shall take their decision in the same manner as in the case of any other offence of a grave nature under the law of that State.

2. Whenever a State Party is permitted under its domestic law to extradite or otherwise surrender one of its nationals only upon the condition that the person will be returned to that State to serve the sentence imposed as a result of the trial or proceeding for which the extradition or surrender of the person was sought, and this State and the State seeking the extradition of the person agree with this option and other terms they may deem appropriate, such a conditional extradition or surrender shall be sufficient to discharge the obligation set forth in paragraph 1 of the present article.

Article 11

1. The offences set forth in article 2 shall be deemed to be included as extraditable offences in any extradition treaty existing between any of the States Parties before the entry into force of this Convention. States Parties undertake to include such offences as extraditable offences in every extradition treaty to be subsequently concluded between them.

2. When a State Party which makes extradition conditional on the existence of a treaty receives a request for extradition from another State Party with which it has no extradition treaty, the requested State Party may, at its option, consider this Convention as a legal basis for extradition in respect of the offences set forth in article 2. Extradition shall be subject to the other conditions provided by the law of the requested State.

3. States Parties which do not make extradition conditional on the existence of a treaty shall recognize the offences set forth in article 2 as extraditable offences between themselves, subject to the conditions provided by the law of the requested State.

4. If necessary, the offences set forth in article 2 shall be treated, for the purposes of extradition between States Parties, as if they had been committed not only in the place in which they occurred but also in the territory of the States that have established jurisdiction in accordance with article 7, paragraphs 1 and 2.

5. The provisions of all extradition treaties and arrangements between States Parties with regard to offences referred to in article 2 shall be deemed to be modified as between States Parties to the extent that they are incompatible with this Convention.

Article 12

1. States Parties shall afford one another the greatest measure of assistance in connection with investigations or criminal or extradition proceedings brought in respect of the offences referred to in article 2, including assistance in obtaining evidence at their disposal necessary for the proceedings.

2. States Parties shall carry out their obligations under paragraph 1 of the present article in conformity with any treaties or other arrangements on mutual legal assistance that may exist between them. In the absence of such treaties or arrangements, States Parties shall afford one another assistance in accordance with their domestic law.

3. States Parties may not claim privileged communications, bank secrecy, or a priori rely on the tax nature of the offence to refuse mutual legal assistance provided for under the present article.

Article 13

None of the offences referred to in article 2 shall be regarded, for the purposes of extradition or mutual legal assistance, as a political offence or as an offence connected with a political offence or as an offence inspired by political motives. Accordingly, a request for extradition or for mutual legal assistance based on such an offence may not be refused on the sole ground that it concerns a political offence or an offence connected with a political offence or an offence inspired by political motives.

Article 14

Nothing in this Convention shall be interpreted as imposing an obligation to extradite or to afford mutual legal assistance, if the requested State Party has substantial grounds for believing that the request for extradition for offences set forth in article 2 or for mutual legal assistance with respect to such offences has been made for the purpose of prosecuting or punishing a person on account of that person's race, religion, nationality, ethnic origin or political opinion or that compliance with the request would cause prejudice to that person's position for any of these reasons.

Article 15

1. A person who is being detained or is serving a sentence in the territory of one State Party whose presence in another State Party is requested for purposes of identification, testimony or otherwise providing assistance in obtaining evidence for the investigation or prosecution of offences under this Convention may be transferred if the following conditions are met:

(a) The person freely gives his or her informed consent; and

(b) The competent authorities of both States agree, subject to such conditions as those States may deem appropriate.

2. For the purposes of the present article:

(a) The State to which the person is transferred shall have the authority and obligation to keep the person transferred in custody, unless otherwise requested or authorized by the State from which the person was transferred;

(b) The State to which the person is transferred shall without delay implement its obligation to return the person to the custody of the State from which the person was transferred as agreed beforehand, or as otherwise agreed, by the competent authorities of both States;

(c) The State to which the person is transferred shall not require the State from which the person was transferred to initiate extradition proceedings for the return of the person;

(d) The person transferred shall receive credit for service of the sentence being served in the State from which he or she was transferred for time spent in the custody of the State to which he or she was transferred.

3. Unless the State Party from which a person is to be transferred in accordance with the present article so agrees, that person, whatever his or her nationality, shall not be prosecuted or detained or subjected to any other restriction of his or her personal liberty in the territory of the State to which that person is transferred in respect of acts or convictions anterior to his or her departure from the territory of the State from which such person was transferred.

Article 16

Any person who is taken into custody or regarding whom any other measures are taken or proceedings are carried out pursuant to this Convention shall be guaranteed fair treatment, including enjoyment of all rights and guarantees in conformity with the law of the State in

the territory of which that person is present and applicable provisions of international law, including the international law of human rights.

Article 17

States Parties shall cooperate in the prevention of the offences set forth in article 2, particularly:

(a) By taking all practicable measures, including, if necessary, adapting their domestic legislation, to prevent and counter preparations in their respective territories for the commission of those offences within or outside their territories, including:

(i) Measures to prohibit in their territories unlawful activities of persons, groups and organizations that knowingly encourage, instigate, organize, finance or engage in the commission of offences as set forth in article 2;

(ii) Measures requiring their financial institutions and other professions involved in financial transactions to improve the identification of their usual or occasional customers, as well as customers in whose interest accounts are opened. For this purpose, States shall consider:

a. Adopting regulations prohibiting the opening of anonymous accounts or the opening of accounts under obviously fictitious names;

b. With respect to the identification of legal entities, verifying the existence and the legal structure of the customer by obtaining, from the customer or public records, proof of incorporation as a company, including information on the name of the client, its legal form, its address, its directors and provisions on the legal entity's authority to bind;

c. Taking measures for preserving for at least five years the necessary documents in connection with the transactions carried out;

(b) By exchanging accurate and verified information in accordance with their domestic law, and coordinating administrative and other measures taken, as appropriate, to prevent the commission of offences as referred to in article 2.

Article 18

The State Party where the alleged offender is prosecuted shall, in accordance with its domestic law or applicable procedures, communicate the final outcome of the proceedings to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall transmit the information to the other States Parties.

Article 19

The States Parties shall carry out their obligations under this Convention in a manner consistent with the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States.

Article 20

Nothing in this Convention entitles a State Party to undertake in the territory of another State Party the exercise of jurisdiction and performance of functions which are exclusively reserved for the authorities of that other State Party by its domestic law.

Article 21

1. Nothing in this Convention shall affect other rights, obligations and responsibilities of States and individuals under international law, in particular the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international humanitarian law.

2. The activities of armed forces during an armed conflict, as those terms are understood under international humanitarian law, which are governed by that law, are not governed by this Convention, and the activities undertaken by military forces of a State in the exercise of their official duties, inasmuch as they are governed by other rules of international law, are not governed by this Convention.

Article 22

1. Any dispute between two or more States Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention which cannot be settled through negotiation within a reasonable time shall, at the request of one of them, be submitted to arbitration. If, within six months from the date of the request for arbitration, the parties are unable to agree on the organization of the arbitration, any one of those parties may refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice, by application, in conformity with the Statute of the Court.

2. Each State may at the time of signature, ratification, acceptance or approval of this Convention or accession thereto declare that it does not consider itself bound by paragraph 1. The other States Parties shall not be bound by paragraph 1 of this article with respect to any State Party which has made such a reservation.

3. Any State which has made a reservation in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present article may at any time withdraw that reservation by notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 23

1. This Convention shall be open for signature by all States from ... until ... at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

2. This Convention is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval. The instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. This Convention shall be open to accession by any State. The instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 24

1. This Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of the deposit of the twenty-second instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

2. For each State ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to the Convention after the deposit of the twenty-second instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after deposit by such State of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

Article 25

1. Any State Party may denounce this Convention by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

2. Denunciation shall take effect one year following the date on which notification is received by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 26

The original of this Convention, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations who shall send certified copies thereof to all States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Convention, opened for signature at New York on _____.

United Nations A/C.6/53/10

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 November 1998

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Fifty-third session
Sixth Committee
Agenda item 149 (b)
United Nations Decade of International Law: Progress in the action dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law

Letter dated 10 November 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of the Netherlands and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Please find enclosed a progress report on the action dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference, as drawn up pursuant to General Assembly resolution 51/159 of 16 December 1996 by the Russian Federation and the Netherlands (see annex).

It is requested that the progress report be distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 149 (b).

(*Signed*) Jaap **Ramaker**
Permanent Representative

(*Signed*) Sergey V. **Lavrov**
Permanent Representative

98-34979 (E) 121198

Annex

Progress report on the action dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law

Report submitted by the delegations of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Russian Federation

1. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 52/154 of 15 December 1997,[a] the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Russian Federation herewith present the progress report on the activities pertaining to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session for consideration under agenda item 149 (b).

I. Preliminary reports on the themes of the first International Peace Conference

2. Preliminary reports on disarmament questions, international humanitarian law and the peaceful settlement of disputes have been prepared by the following rapporteurs: Mr. Hans Blix, Mr. Christopher Greenwood, Mr. Francisco Orrego Vicuña and Mr. Christopher Pinto, who are highly regarded authorities in their respective fields of expertise. As of summer 1998, these reports were made available for downloading on the Internet.[b] The reports can be made available in hard copy in limited numbers to delegations, upon request. The following two experts, originally invited to serve as rapporteurs, have not been able to finalize their tasks: Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala and Mr. Georges Abi-Saab. The co-hosts hope that these experts will nevertheless extend their wisdom and expertise to the discussions of the reports in the course of the ongoing debate on the centennial themes. Their contributions will significantly benefit the discussions.

II. Comments on the preliminary reports

3. The preliminary reports have been, are being and will be discussed at various regional meetings, including:

- Inter-American Commission of Jurists of the Organization of American States (OAS);
- Ad Hoc Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law of the Council of Europe;
- Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC);
- International Law Commission (ILC);
- International Bureau of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

4. Judge Gilbert Guillaume of the International Court of Justice, in his personal capacity, also commented on the preliminary report on the peaceful settlement of disputes. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway, Mr. Knut Vollebæk, contributed his Fridtjof Nansen Memorial lecture,[c] entitled "Small arms: great challenges", to the discussions on the themes of disarmament questions and humanitarian law. Furthermore, special arrangements have

been made with organizers of AALCC (early February 1999, New Delhi) and the Asia-Pacific Region Commemorative Conference of the 1899 Hague Peace Conference (University of Melbourne, Australia, 18–20 February 1999) on the inclusion of the contributions to these events in the discussions on the centennial themes.

5. These comments on the preliminary reports will also be available for downloading from the centennial Web site.

6. Other relevant international forums, at either the regional or the universal level, interested organizations, as well as individuals from all over the world have also been invited to submit their comments to the preliminary report. These comments should be submitted to the Executive Secretariat of the 1999 centennial by e-mail,[d] or any other electronic means[e] as soon as possible, in order to be considered by other forums. In order to be considered by the rapporteurs, comments should be submitted before the end of 1998, at the latest.

7. Preliminary reports will be updated by the rapporteurs in the light of comments received. The updated reports will be available for consideration by participants to the centennial events at The Hague and St. Petersburg.

III. Follow-up to the centennial reports and the outcome of The Hague and St. Petersburg: closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law

8. The conclusions of the discussions on the three centennial themes, as discussed preliminarily and at The Hague and St. Petersburg events, together with the final reports on the conclusions of those events, will be submitted to the United Nations for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session at the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law. They might indicate possible ways ahead on particular aspects of the three centennial themes. These documents will also be forwarded to the twenty-seventh International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference. Furthermore, the conclusions and final reports will be available for consideration by other interested forums.

9. At the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law the conclusions and final reports will be forwarded for consideration in an appropriate manner at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

IV. Friends of 1999

10. Meetings of the "Friends of 1999"[f] were held at The Hague in 1997, and in Moscow in April 1998. On 29 October 1998, a final meeting of the Friends before the events took place in New York.

11. Representatives of some 20 States from all regions of the world, the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the coalition of non-governmental organizations known as the Hague Appeal for Peace were invited for further consultations regarding the preliminary reports of the rapporteurs for the centennial of the First International Peace Conference. During the discussions, meaningful progress was achieved on the further elaboration of the programme of action for the centennial of the first International Peace Conference and on coordination between the various parties to that process.

V. Emblem of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference

12. As can be seen on the documents downloaded from the Web site an ostrich feather, the ancient hieroglyph *ma-at*, has been chosen as the emblem of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference. As probably one of the oldest written signs for "law" known to mankind, this hieroglyph, first of all, symbolizes a long and established global legal tradition, marked especially by the 1899 first International Peace Conference and its centennial celebrations in 1999. The *ma-at* hieroglyph represented justice, truth and (eternal, cosmic) harmony, and as such also symbolizes the aims of the United Nations Decade of International Law, and of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference in particular.

VI. Agenda

13. The preliminary agenda for the celebration of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference will be made available concomitantly with the issuance of the draft resolution.[g]

14. On 17 May 1999, the Permanent Court of Arbitration will hold a commemorative session of its members at the Peace Palace in The Hague. On 18 and 19 May 1999, the official commemoration of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference will be opened, and the legislative and normative aspects of the three themes of the Centennial will be considered at the expert level at the Peace Palace in The Hague.

15. From 22 to 25 June 1999, the implementation aspects of the themes of the centennial will be considered at the expert level in St. Petersburg.

16. The conclusions of discussions at The Hague and St. Petersburg will, as has been stated above, be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session for consideration at the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law.

VII. Attendance and invitations

17. The co-hosts of the 1999 centennial celebrations will invite legal advisers from States to participate in the official centennial commemorative events at The Hague, the Netherlands, and St. Petersburg, Russian Federation. High-level officials of the United Nations Secretariat, of the (organs of) international organizations and of other international organizations will also be invited to either or both of the centennial events, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations, such as those operating within the framework of the Hague Appeal for Peace.[h] The host countries will, of course, be represented at the highest level.

Notes

[a] See also the programme of action for the celebration of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference (A/C.6/52/3).

[b] www.minbuza.nl/english/conferences/c_peace1.html.

[c] Presented at the Peace Palace, The Hague, 12 October 1998.

[d] 1999@dvn.minbuza.nl. The Web site contains a mail-back facility, automatically sending the comments to the correct e-mail address.

[e] Although hard copy versions are welcome as well, electronic submission will ensure swift transmission to other interested forums.

[f] Australia, Austria, Brazil, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, France, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Permanent Court of Arbitration, International Court of Justice, International Committee of the Red Cross, Carnegie Foundation, Hague Appeal for Peace.

[g] In the week of 10–15 May 1999 the NGO coalition Hague Appeal for Peace will organize civil society activities in connection with the centennial of the first International Peace Conference at The Hague for participants from all over the world. The Hague Appeal for Peace agenda will be available in the Conference Room.

[h] At The Hague: five representatives for each of the centennial themes, as observers.

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Provisional list of events in 1999 related to the centennial of the first International Peace Conference, 1899, and the United Nations Decade of International Law

Note by the Secretariat

The provisional list of events in 1999 relating to the centennial of the first International Peace Conference and the United Nations Decade of International Law, prepared by the Governments of the Russian Federation and the Netherlands, is circulated herewith (see annex).

98-35120 (E) 121198

Annex

Provisional list of events in 1999 related to the centennial of the first International Peace Conference, 1899,[a] and the United Nations Decade of International Law

Event and organizer(s)	*Date*	*Location*	*Objective*	*Participants*
1. Commemorative session of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, organized by the International Bureau of the Permanent Court of Arbitration	17 May 1999	Peace Palace, The Hague	Commemorative session on the eve of the centennial of the Court Review of developments at the Court since its 1993 Conference Deliberation on the 1999 report on the peaceful settlement of disputes Adoption of a resolution containing recommendations of members for enhancing the activities and role of the Permanent Court of Arbitration	Members (distinguished jurists or international law scholars and jurists appointed by the Governments of States members of the Court)
2. Signing ceremony of the Protocol to the 1954 Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (to be confirmed)	17 May 1999	The Hague	To strengthen and supplement the 1954 Convention	States parties to the 1954 Convention
3. Official commemoration of the centennial of the 1899 International Peace Conference, organized by the Netherlands National Committee 1999	18–19 May 1999	Peace Palace, The Hague	Meeting of governmental experts on legislative and normative aspects of the themes of the first International Peace Conference (on the basis of reports and comments of various regional discussions)	Legal advisers (ambassadors, guests, rapporteurs, observers)
	18 May 1999	Peace Palace, The Hague	Official opening ceremony of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference: general debate Historic notes to the 1899 Peace Conference Introduction of the report on the peaceful settlement of disputes Introduction of the report on disarmament questions Introduction of the report on humanitarian law	Dignitaries, legal advisers, ambassadors, guests, rapporteurs, observers
	18 May 1999	Peace Palace, The Hague	Preparation of final documents	Legal advisers (ambassadors of Friends of 1999, Netherlands National Committee 1999, Russian Federation National Committee 1999)

Event and organizer(s)	*Date*	*Location*	*Objective*	*Participants*
	19 May 1999	Peace Palace, The Hague	Consideration of and conclusions on the report on the peaceful settlement of disputes	Legal advisers (ambassadors, guests, rapporteurs, observers)
			Consideration of and conclusions on the report on disarmament questions	
			Consideration of and conclusions on the report on humanitarian law	
	19 May 1999	Peace Palace, The Hague	Closing ceremony of The Hague session of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference	Legal advisers, ambassadors, guests, rapporteurs, observers
4. Celebration of the centennial of the 1899 International Peace Conference: centennial conference organized by the Russian National Committee on the United Nations Decade of International Law	22–25 June 1999	St. Petersburg	Symposium of experts on the implementation aspects of the themes of the first International Peace Conference (on the basis of reports and comments of various regional discussions)	Dignitaries, legal advisers, ambassadors, guests, rapporteurs, observers
	22 June 1999	St. Petersburg	Official opening of the session of the centennial celebration of the first International Peace Conference	Dignitaries, legal advisers, ambassadors, guests, rapporteurs, observers
			General historical aspects of the first International Peace Conference	
			Friends of 1999: preparation of final documents	
			Consideration of the report on the peaceful settlement of disputes	
	23 June 1999	St. Petersburg	Consideration of and conclusions on the report on peaceful settlement of disputes	Dignitaries, legal advisers, ambassadors, guests, rapporteurs, observers
			Consideration of the report on disarmament questions	
	24 June 1999	St. Petersburg	Consideration of and conclusions on the report on disarmament questions	Dignitaries, legal advisers, ambassadors, guests, rapporteurs, observers
			Consideration of the report on humanitarian law	
	25 June 1999	St. Petersburg	Consideration of and conclusions on the report on humanitarian law	Dignitaries, legal advisers, ambassadors, guests, rapporteurs, observers
	25 June 1999	St. Petersburg	Official closing ceremony	Legal advisers, ambassadors, guests, rapporteurs, observers

Event and organizer(s)	*Date*	*Location*	*Objective*	*Participants*
5. International Committee of the Red Cross: fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross	12 August 1999	Geneva	Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Geneva Conventions Finalization of results of the worldwide consultation among populations affected by armed conflict, as well as those in peaceful countries	
6. Twenty-seventh International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, organized by the Standing Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent	6–8 November 1999	Geneva	Consideration of, *inter alia*, the results of the worldwide consultation among populations affected by armed conflict as well as those in peaceful countries	States parties to the Conventions, Nation Societies of the Red and Red Crescent, th International Federa the Red Cross and R Crescent Societies a International Comm the Red Cross
7. Outcome of the action dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference, to be discussed at the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law	17 November 1999: plenary meeting of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly November 1999: Consideration by the Sixth Committee of the item on the United Nations Decade of International Law	New York		
Regional and national meetings				
1. Regional meetings to prepare for the centennial celebrations: Inter-American Commission of Jurists of the Organization of American States Ad Hoc Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law of the Council of Europe (tentative) Afro-Asian Legal Consultative Committee International Law Commission International Bureau of the Permanent Court of Arbitration International Parliamentary Union (tentative)	Months preceding May 1999	Various	Comments on preliminary reports on armament questions, international humanitarian law and peaceful settlement of disputes prepared by the rapporteurs	Members
2. National meetings to prepare for the centennial celebrations[b]				

Event and organizer(s)	*Date*	*Location*	*Objective*	*Participants*
Selected non-governmental organization and related meetings				
1. Consortium on related dispute resolution and the International Law Association	11–15 December 1998	London		Experts, upon invitation
2. Meeting on the armed forces, democracy and human rights, organized by the Ecuadorean Foundation for International and Strategic Relations	Mid-January 1999	Ecuador		Non-governmental organizations
3. Africa Peace Congress, organized by International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Kenya	February 1999	Nairobi		Non-governmental organizations
4. Meeting on conflict resolution in the Mediterranean region, organized by various members of the Catalan Federation of non-governmental organizations, Spain	February 1999	Barcelona		Non-governmental organizations
5. Asia-Pacific Region Commemorative Conference of the 1899 International Peace Conference, organized by the University of Melbourne, Australia	18–20 February 1999	Melbourne		
6. NGO Coalition Hague Appeal for Peace Conference	11–15 May 1999	The Hague	Organization of civil society activities in connection with the centennial of the first International Peace Conference	Non-governmental organizations from all over the world
7. Abolition 2000 Peace Walk, organized by For Mother Earth	16–26 May 1999	The Hague to Brussels		Non-governmental organizations
8. Hague Appeal for Peace Post-Conference Assembly	22 May 1999	Westminster, London		Non-governmental organizations

[a] Based on the proposed programme of action (A/C.6/52/3, annex) and communications informally received from delegations and relevant organizations.

[b] No information currently available.